



## MOORMANN'S *progress*

For more than two decades, German designer Nils Holger Moormann has been creating furniture that stands for individuality and quality

Words Alan Boyd Photography Jäger & Jäger

**N**ils Holger Moormann gave away the study of law and became a self-taught designer and furniture maker. He is a bit of an eccentric with an offbeat sense of humour and great wit. It's not quite the typical image of a German designer and this extends to his products, with Nils' designs being well considered and beautifully detailed — and often quirky.

Nils first began working in the furniture industry in 1982 and 10 years later, set

up his own company in Aschau, Bavaria. The company has remained small, with 20 employees, and the actual production work is done by local specialist companies.

Nils champions young, unknown designers and takes them under his wing. For example, Konstantin Grcic joined Nils in 1998 and, among many other pieces, designed the Es bookshelf. This unique piece broke many rules of furniture design in that it is a wobbling, moving bookshelf that has no firm structure, yet still keeps books and items in place.

Another one of Nils' quirky products is the Liesmichl, which lines up your favourite books ready to read, does away with the need for a bookmark and is a handy place for your favourite tippie. As with all Nils' designs, this piece slots together without the use of screws, tools or even an Allen key!

For those who need to house more than just books, the Magnetique by Swen Krause is a fun and different way to adjust and adapt shelving options without tools. Simply stick magnetised boxes onto a sheet of lacquered steel (though you will need to fix this part to a wall) in whichever way you like, and whenever you like.

This year, one of Nils' young designers, Daniel Kern, has been nominated as Upcoming German Designer for 2013. Daniel designed the beautiful Klopstock, a table that's not just one table, but many tables. It has a very clever locking system that allows Klopstock's legs to be positioned in 12 different symmetrical (and some more



non-symmetrical) ways, allowing different seating positions and table heights.

For those who would like to immerse themselves completely in the aesthetics of Nils' German style, there is his unique guesthouse experience in the mountains of Bavaria. Originally a 16th-century bakery, the Berge has been painstakingly restored by Nils and has 16 beautifully designed apartments — with no TV, Wi-Fi or much mobile phone coverage. It does, however, have plenty of books in very well-designed bookcases and shelves.

### more info?

Moormann is distributed in Australia by SMOW. [smow.com.au](http://smow.com.au)

